

**Case 3717 – XYLOPHAGIDAE Purchon, 1941 (Mollusca: Bivalvia):  
proposed emendation of the spelling to XYLOPHAGAIDAE to remove  
homonymy with XYLOPHAGIDAE Fallén, 1810 (Insecta: Diptera)**

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**Abstract.** The purpose of this application, under Articles 29 and 55.3 of the Code, is to remove the homonymy between the family-group names XYLOPHAGIDAE Purchon, 1941 (Mollusca: Bivalvia) and XYLOPHAGIDAE Fallén, 1810 (Insecta: Diptera), which are homonyms due to the similarity of the names of their respective type genera *Xylophaga* Turton, 1822 and *Xylophagus* Meigen, 1803. It is proposed that the stem of the generic name *Xylophaga* be emended to *Xylophaga-* to give XYLOPHAGAIDAE, while leaving the fly family name unaltered.

**Keywords.** Nomenclature; taxonomy; Insecta; Mollusca; Bivalvia; Diptera; XYLOPHAGIDAE; XYLOPHAGAIDAE; *Xylophaga*; *Xylophagus*; *Nemotelus cinctus*; *Teredo dorsalis*; fly; wood-boring.

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1. Meigen (1803, p. 266) proposed *Xylophagus* in the Diptera (Insecta) including only the single species *Nemotelus cinctus* De Geer, 1776 (p. 183), which is the type species by monotypy. Fallén (1810, p. 5) proposed a family-group name (as “XYLOPHAGEI”) based on the genus *Xylophagus* Meigen, 1803 and included two genera: *Sicus* Fabricius, 1798 (p. 547) [non Scopoli, 1763], and *Xylophagus* Meigen, 1803. This family-group name (correctly spelled as XYLOPHAGIDAE in Stephens, 1829, p. 57) is in current use within the Diptera for a group of flies found worldwide comprising 134 species in nine genera (Woodley, 2011).

2. Turton (1822, p. 253) proposed the genus-group name *Xylophaga*, for a group of deep-water wood-boring bivalves, of which the type species is *Teredo dorsalis* Turton, 1819 (p. 185), by monotypy. Purchon (1941) recognized the uniqueness of this genus and proposed a family-group name [as “XYLOPHAGINIDAE” (Purchon, 1941, p. 32)] based on the genus *Xylophaga* Turton, 1822. Whereas some authors (Taki & Habe, 1950) maintained



Purchon's original spelling for the bivalve family, Turner's (1955, p. 145) monograph on the PHOLADIDAE treated the group as a subfamily and used the spelling XYLOPHAGINAE. In her treatment of the family in the *Treatise on Invertebrate Zoology*, Turner (1969, p. N721) became aware of the family name homonym with the Diptera and changed ["*nom. correct.*"] the name of the bivalve subfamily to XYLOPHAGAIIDAE. Three years later, Hoagland & Turner (1971, p. 115) maintained the latter spelling but noted that a petition would be needed to formalize the change. Bernard (1983, p. 61) independently changed the name to XYLOPHAGAIIDAE, stating "*nom. correct., herein pro XYLOPHAGAIIDAE*", but he did not provide a reason and misspelled Purchon's original orthography. Since 1983, most authors have used the emended spelling, XYLOPHAGAIIDAE, and it is in current use (Harvey, 1996; Turner, 2002; Bieler & Mikkelsen, 2006, p. 235; Mikkelsen & Bieler, 2007, p. 389; Haga & Kase, 2008; Voight, 2008, 2009, 2015), although Coan & Valentich-Scott (2012, p. 905) used XYLOPHAGINAE, but noted the alternative often being used and the still remaining need for a petition. Most authors now rank this group as a separate family with the superfamily PHOLADOIDEA. Purchon's (1941) original spelling is thus not in current use.

3. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked:
  - (1) to use its plenary power to rule for the purposes of Article 29 of the Code, that the stem of *Xylophaga* Turton, 1822 is *Xylophaga*-;
  - (2) to place on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology the following names:
    - (a) *Xylophaga* Turton, 1822 (gender: feminine), type species by monotypy *Teredo dorsalis* Turton, 1819;
    - (b) *Xylophagus* Meigen, 1803 (gender: masculine), type species by monotypy *Nemotelus cinctus* De Geer, 1776;
  - (3) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the following names:
    - (a) *dorsalis* Turton, 1819, as published in the binomen *Teredo dorsalis*;
    - (b) *cinctus* De Geer, 1776, as published in the binomen *Nemotelus cinctus*;
  - (4) to place on the Official List of Family-Group Names in Zoology the following names:
    - (a) XYLOPHAGAIIDAE Purchon, 1941, type genus *Xylophagus* Turton, 1822 (Mollusca: Bivalvia);
    - (b) XYLOPHAGIDAE Fallén, 1810, type genus *Xylophagus* Meigen, 1803 (Insecta: Diptera);
  - (5) to place on the Official Index of Rejected or Invalid Family-Group Names in Zoology the name XYLOPHAGINIDAE Purchon, 1941, spelling emended to XYLOPHAGAIIDAE, as ruled in (4)(a) above.

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Comments on this case are invited for publication (subject to editing) in the *Bulletin*; they should be sent to the Secretariat, ICZN, Lee Kong Chian Natural History Museum, 2 Conservatory Drive, Singapore 117377, Republic of Singapore (e-mail: iczn@nus.edu.sg).